



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/031,524	01/16/2002	Yehouda Harpaz		6217

33953 7590 05/16/2003

YEHOUDA HARPAZ
129 CORRIE ROAD
CAMBRIDGE, CB1 3QQ
UNITED KINGDOM

EXAMINER

RADA, ALEX P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2003

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/031,524

Applicant(s)

HARPAZ, YEHOUDA

Examiner

Alex P. Rada

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 3714

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because reference points do not show any distinction between each other in figures 2-3. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

Art Unit: 3714

- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Content of Specification

- (a) Title of the Invention: See 37 CFR 1.72(a) and MPEP § 606. The title of the invention should be placed at the top of the first page of the specification unless the title is provided in an application data sheet. The title of the invention should be brief but technically accurate and descriptive, preferably from two to seven words may not contain more than 500 characters.
- (b) Cross-References to Related Applications: See 37 CFR 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11.
- (c) Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research and Development: See MPEP § 310.
- (d) Incorporation-By-Reference Of Material Submitted On a Compact Disc: The specification is required to include an incorporation-by-reference of electronic documents that are to become part of the permanent United States Patent and Trademark Office records in the file of a patent application. See 37 CFR 1.52(e) and MPEP § 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text were permitted as electronic documents on compact discs beginning on September 8, 2000.

Or alternatively, Reference to a "Microfiche Appendix": See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.

- (e) Background of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(c). The specification should set forth the Background of the Invention in two parts:
 - (1) Field of the Invention: A statement of the field of art to which the invention pertains. This statement may include a paraphrasing of the applicable U.S. patent classification definitions of the subject matter of the claimed invention. This item may also be titled "Technical Field."
 - (2) Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98: A description of the related art known to the applicant and including, if applicable, references to specific related art and

Art Unit: 3714

problems involved in the prior art which are solved by the applicant's invention. This item may also be titled "Background Art."

- (f) Brief Summary of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(d). A brief summary or general statement of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. The summary is separate and distinct from the abstract and is directed toward the invention rather than the disclosure as a whole. The summary may point out the advantages of the invention or how it solves problems previously existent in the prior art (and preferably indicated in the Background of the Invention). In chemical cases it should point out in general terms the utility of the invention. If possible, the nature and gist of the invention or the inventive concept should be set forth. Objects of the invention should be treated briefly and only to the extent that they contribute to an understanding of the invention.
- (g) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s): See MPEP § 608.01(f). A reference to and brief description of the drawing(s) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.74.
- (h) Detailed Description of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(g). A description of the preferred embodiment(s) of the invention as required in 37 CFR 1.71. The description should be as short and specific as is necessary to describe the invention adequately and accurately. Where elements or groups of elements, compounds, and processes, which are conventional and generally widely known in the field of the invention described and their exact nature or type is not necessary for an understanding and use of the invention by a person skilled in the art, they should not be described in detail. However, where particularly complicated subject matter is involved or where the elements, compounds, or processes may not be commonly or widely known in the field, the specification should refer to another patent or readily available publication which adequately describes the subject matter.
- (i) Claim or Claims: See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(m). The claim or claims must commence on separate sheet (37 CFR 1.52(b)). Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element or step of the claim should be separated by a line indentation. There may be plural indentations to further segregate subcombinations or related steps. See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(i)-(p).
- (j) Abstract of the Disclosure: See MPEP § 608.01(f). A brief narrative of the disclosure as a whole in a single paragraph of 150 words or less commencing on a separate sheet following the claims. In an international application which has entered the national stage (37 CFR 1.491(b)), the applicant need not submit an abstract commencing on a separate sheet if an abstract was published with the international application under PCT Article 21. The abstract that appears on the cover page of the pamphlet published by the International Bureau (IB) of the

Art Unit: 3714

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the abstract that will be used by the USPTO. See MPEP § 1893.03(e).

- (k) Sequence Listing. See 37 CFR 1.821-1.825 and MPEP §§ 2421-2431. The requirement for a sequence listing applies to all sequences disclosed in a given application, whether the sequences are claimed or not. See MPEP § 2421.02.

Claim Objections

2. A series of singular dependent claims is permissible in which a dependent claim refers to a preceding claim which, in turn, refers to another preceding claim.

A claim which depends from a dependent claim should not be separated by any claim which does not also depend from said dependent claim. It should be kept in mind that a dependent claim may refer to any preceding independent claim. In general, applicant's sequence will not be changed. See MPEP § 608.01(n).

3. Claims 4-10 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3714

5. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harpaz GB '680 in view of Tepoorten '421.

6. Harpaz discloses a membrane keyboard with press-sensitive areas, a PCB on which two or more light sources are mounted around the center of each hole and carries the circuitry to drive them, the distance of the light source is more than a quarter of the diameter of the hole, and the membrane keyboard and the control of the light sources are connected to a CPU to manage various games and puzzles as recited in claim 1. Harpaz does not expressly disclose a layer of a translucent material, a separation layer of opaque material as recited in claim 1.

Tepoorten teaches a game board having a layer of a translucent material and a separation layer of opaque material. By having different layers, one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to provide a universal game board. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to modify Harpaz to include a layer of a translucent material and a separation layer of opaque material as taught by Tepoorten. To do so would enhance the enjoyment of playing various types of games.

Regarding claim 2, the particular area measurement used is a matter of design choice, wherein no stated problem is solved, or unexpected result obtained, by using the specific area measurement claimed versus the area measurement taught by the prior art.

Regarding claim 3, the particular translucent material used is a matter of design choice, wherein no stated problem is solved, or unexpected result obtained, by using the specific translucent material claimed versus the translucent material taught by the prior art.

Art Unit: 3714

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Jones `927, Swift `182, Lee `397, Gaito `281, and Yamamoto `890 all discloses different types of electric grid type game boards.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alex P. Rada whose telephone number is 703-308-7135. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 08:00-16:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Hughes can be reached on 703-308-1806. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

APR
apr
May 13, 2003


S. THOMAS HUGHES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Art Unit: 3714

Applicant's Response

The following consists of general information for the Applicant's benefit. Unless the Office explicitly requests the return of a paper, all papers mailed to the Applicant are intended to be kept by the Applicant for his own records. The response must be signed by ALL applicants.

I. Amendments to the Specification

After March 1, 2001, all amendments to the specification, including the claims, must be made by replacement paragraph/section/claim in clean form (without underlining and bracketing) in order to eliminate (1) the need for the Office to enter changes to the text of application portions by handwriting in red ink, and (2) the presence of hard to scan brackets and underlining to improve the patent publishing process. This practice requires the applicant to provide a clean copy of an amended paragraph/section/claim together with a marked up version using applicant's choice of a marking system showing the changes being made which will aid the examiner. The marked up version must be based on the immediate previous version and indicate (by markings) how the previous version has been modified to produce the clean replacement paragraph(s), section(s), specification or claim(s) submitted in the current amendment. "Previous version" is defined as the version of record in the application as originally filed or from a previously entered amendment.

(1) Amendment by instruction to delete, replace, or add a paragraph. Amendments to the specification, other than the claims and listings provided for elsewhere, may be made by submitting:

(i) An instruction, which unambiguously identifies the location, to delete one or more paragraphs of the specification, replace a deleted paragraph with one or more replacement paragraphs, or add one or more paragraphs;

(ii) Any replacement or added paragraph(s) in clean form, that is, without markings to indicate the changes that have been made; and

(iii) Another version of any replacement paragraph(s), on one or more pages separate from the amendment, marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph(s). The changes may be shown by brackets (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter), or by any equivalent marking system. A marked up version does not have to be supplied for an added paragraph or a deleted paragraph as it is sufficient to state that a particular paragraph has been added, or deleted.

(2) Amendment by replacement section. If the sections of the specification contain section headings as provided in 37 CFR §§ 1.77(b), 1.154(b), or § 1.163(c), amendments to the specification, other than the claims, may be made by submitting:

(i) A reference to the section heading along with an instruction to delete that section of the specification and to replace such deleted section with a replacement section;

(ii) A replacement section in clean form, that is, without markings to indicate the changes that have been made; and

Art Unit: 3714

(iii) Another version of the replacement section, on one or more pages separate from the amendment, marked up to show all changes relative to the previous version of the section. The changes may be shown by brackets (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter), or by any equivalent marking system.

(3) Amendment by substitute specification. The specification, other than the claims, may also be amended by submitting:

- (i) An instruction to replace the specification;
- (ii) A substitute specification in compliance with § 1.125(b); and
- (iii) Another version of the substitute specification, separate from the substitute specification, marked up to show all changes relative to the previous version of the specification. The changes may be shown by brackets (for deleted matter), or underlining (for added matter), or by any equivalent marking system.

An example of an amendment to the specification could appear as follows:

On page 16, line 12, change "effect" to --affect--.

On page 23, line 4, insert --bucket-- after "backhoe".

(Note: the inserted language is placed between double dashes.)

If a new specification is submitted, a marked up copy of the original specification is also required.

II. Amendments to the Drawings

Any amendment to the drawings modifying, deleting or inserting figures must be specifically requested in the amendment. Any changes must be shown in red-ink on the drawings. Any insertion of new figures must be set forth in the amendment and the specification must be amended in the Brief Description of the Drawings as well as in the Detailed Description of the Drawings sections in a manner as set forth above.

III. Amendments to the Claims

All amendments to a claim must be presented in the form of a rewritten claim. Any rewriting of a claim will be construed as a direction to cancel the previous version of the claim. See *In re Byers*, 230 F.2d 451, 455, 109 USPQ 53, 55 (CCPA 1956) (amendment of a claim by inclusion of an additional limitation had exactly the same effect as if the claim as originally presented had been canceled and replaced by a new claim including that limitation). Any rewritten or newly added claim must be submitted in clean form, that is, with no markings to indicate the changes that have been made, and must be accompanied by a marked up version separate from the amendment using applicant's choice of marking system to indicate the changes being made. A parenthetical expression should follow the claim number indicating the status of the claim as amended or newly added, e.g., "amended," "twice amended," or "new," in both the clean version and the marked up version. A marked up version does not have to be supplied for any added claims or any canceled claims. If a marked up version is supplied to show changes made to amended claims, however, applicant should identify (in the marked up version) any added or canceled claims with a statement, such as, "Claim 6 has been canceled." A canceled claim can be reinstated only by a subsequent amendment presenting the claim as a new claim with a new claim number.

Art Unit: 3714

Applicants may submit a clean version (with no markings) of all of the pending claims in one amendment paper. Applicants may wish to consolidate all previous versions of pending claims from a series of separate amendment papers into a single clean version in a single amendment paper. Providing this consolidation of claims in the file will be beneficial to both the Office and the applicant for patent printing purposes. When rewriting a claim in the clean set, the parenthetical expression, if any, from the claim to be rewritten should not appear in the clean set. Thus, the only time a parenthetical expression should appear in the clean set is when a claim is being amended. See MPEP § 714.13 for submitting a clean set of claims under 37 CFR 1.116 and MPEP § 714.16 for submitting a clean set under 37 CFR 1.312. See also MPEP § 714.22(a). It is recommended that the following format be used by applicants in complying with the revised amendment practice requirements. The amendment paper should include, in the following order:

- (A) a clean version of the amended (replacement) paragraph(s)/claim(s);
- (B) a remarks section (beginning on a separate sheet); and
- (C) a marked-up version (also beginning on a separate sheet) showing changes and clearly identified as "Version with markings to show changes made."

The submission of a clean version of all pending claims shall be construed as directing the cancellation of all previous versions of any pending claims. A marked up version would only be needed for claims being changed by the current amendment (see 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii)). Any claim not accompanied by a marked up version will constitute an assertion that it has not been modified relative to the immediate prior version. Thus, if applicant is not making any amendments to the claims, but is merely presenting all pending claims in clean form, without any underlining and bracketing, a marked up version should not be submitted.

As an example, if a claim for a chair were originally written as follows:

1. A chair comprising a horizontal seat, a vertical back, and a plurality of vertical support members.

An amended marked-up version of this claim might then be written as follows:

1. (Amended) A chair comprising a horizontal seat, a vertical back, and [a plurality of] four vertical [support members] legs attached to said seat.

In this example, the words "a plurality of" and "support members" have been deleted from the claim. The words "--four--" and "--legs attached to said seat--" have been inserted.

If the specification or drawings originally described the inclusion of four legs on the chair, the new limitation of "four legs" in the claim would not constitute new matter.

IV. Arguments

If an Office Action contains a rejection or objection to the claims, the Applicant **MUST** respond with arguments under the heading "Remarks", pointing out disagreements with the Examiner's contentions. The Applicant must also discuss the references applied against the claims, explaining how the claims avoid the references or patentably distinguish from them. The applicant must respond to every ground of rejection and objection set forth in the Office Action.

Art Unit: 3714

For more details of the amendment process, the Applicant can refer to 37 Code of Federal Regulations Sections 1.118 - 1.121.

V. New Matter

As previously mentioned, no amendment to the specification, claims, or drawings may introduce new matter. "New matter" constitutes any material which meets the following criteria:

- a) It is added to the disclosure (either the specification, the claims, or the drawings) after the filing date of the application, and
- b) It contains new information which is neither included nor implied in the original version of the disclosure. This includes the addition of physical properties, new uses, etc.

VI. Period for Response

The three month shortened statutory period specified in the cover letter (form PTO-326) is the period of time in which the Applicant has to respond to every rejection and objection within this Office Action. The Applicant's response must be received within three months of the date listed on the cover letter, or the application will be held abandoned.

This period, however, may be extended up to a maximum of six months, with the payment of the appropriate fee. The following table lists the required fee for extensions of the three month period:

<u>No. Months after Office Action Date</u>	<u>Amount of Fee</u>
0 - 1	-
1 - 2	-
2 - 3	-
3 - 4	\$ 55
4 - 5	\$200
5 - 6	\$460

If the response is filed four months and one day after the mailing date of the Office Action, the response must be accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$200. A separate Petition for Extension of Time requesting "an extension of the period for response under 37 CFR 1.136(a)" must be submitted with the response.

VII. Certificate of Mailing

To ensure that the Applicant's response is considered timely filed, it is advisable to include a "Certificate of Mailing" on at least one page of the response. This "Certificate" should consist of the following statement:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231" on (date).

(signature)

This "Certificate" may appear anywhere on the page, and may be handwritten or typed. It MUST be signed by the person who actually deposits the paper with the Postal Service, and the date MUST be the actual date on which it is mailed.

For the purpose of calculating extensions of time, the date shown on the certificate will be used as the date on which the paper was received by the Office, regardless of the date the

Application/Control Number: 10/031,524

Page 12

Art Unit: 3714

Postal Service actually delivers the response. In this way, postal delays would not affect the extension-of-time fee.